

PANDEMIC ALERT PHASE: 3

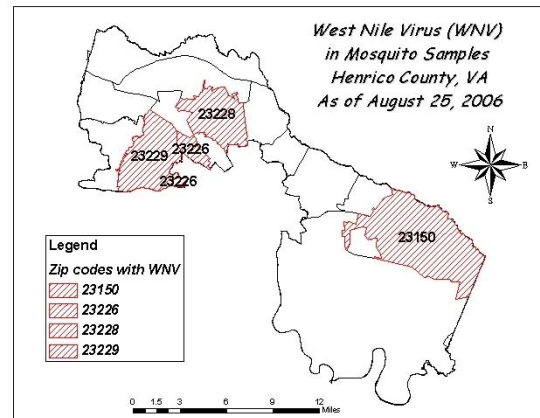
On the web at: www.publichealthbytes.org

Communicable Diseases Update: West Nile Virus (WNV)/

Arboviral diseases — With the exception of some areas of high WNV activity in Northern Virginia, arboviral activity has been relatively low across Virginia for the 2006 season. To date, WNV+ positive mosquito pools have been reported in four Henrico County zip codes (see map). When a mosquito pool tests positive, residents living within a half-mile radius of the pool receive a mailing from Henrico County Public Works (the radius is based on the average flight range of the mosquito species that tests positive). The mailing includes notification that mosquitoes have tested WNV +, and provides tips for reducing the risk of WNV disease. Henrico Health Department appreciates your assistance in providing helpful information to the community as we all work to inform and educate the public about mosquito surveillance data and arboviral disease prevention. No human cases of WNV have been reported for 2006 in Virginia. For updates on WNV activity in Henrico see:

<http://www.co.henrico.va.us/health/westnile.htm>. **Avian Flu Update –**

Mute swans - Testing has indicated the H5 and N1 avian influenza subtypes sampled in wild mute swans in Michigan August 8, 2006 do not represent the highly pathogenic H5N1 strain and do NOT represent a threat to human health. Genetic analysis of the virus indicates it is similar to a low pathogenicity avian influenza (LPAI) virus that has been previously found in North America. The swans showed no signs of illness or disease. Information on wild bird sampling for early detection of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in the United States is available at: <http://wildlifedisease.nbii.gov/ai/>. **Human cases** - Since the start of August, health officials in Indonesia have confirmed the country's 55th through 60th cases of human infection with the H5N1 avian influenza virus. Most cases have been in young people, including males aged 16 and 17 years of age, and females 6, 9, 17, and 35 years of age. Of the 60 cases confirmed to date in Indonesia, 46 have been fatal; a case fatality rate of 76.6%. WHO is coordinating the global response to human cases of H5N1 and monitoring the threat of an influenza pandemic. If your medical practice needs guidance for writing a pandemic flu plan, visit: <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/checklists.html>. **Recruiting Providers for Influenza Surveillance** - The Henrico County Health Department is again recruiting medical practices to participate in sentinel influenza surveillance during the upcoming 2006-07 influenza season. Practices can choose to participate in either the CDC or the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) surveillance systems. Your participation allows us to monitor the timing, level, and location of influenza-like illness (ILI) activity in Henrico. Private practices, urgent care centers, EDs, and university health clinics are encouraged to participate. The surveillance period is from 10/1/2006 to 5/2007. Please call Rebecca Early, the district epidemiologist, at (804) 501-5216 if you would like to participate!



Emergency Preparedness: Hurricane Readiness - We are entering the height of hurricane season in our area. Please review your practice's plans for hurricane preparedness and response. CDC has information available at:

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/>. **Pandemic Flu Planning Update** - As part of our local pandemic flu planning, Henrico County will be conducting a multi-agency exercise of our plan to deliver emergency vaccine to the general population in a rapid manner. To accomplish this test, we will provide up to 2500 doses of the 2006-2007 seasonal vaccine to the general public over a 4-hour period at 2 separate locations later this fall. This exercise will also be the first opportunity for Henrico Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers to participate in a county exercise. The MRC is comprised of medical and health professionals and non-medical volunteers who are willing to assist their community during public health emergencies. To join the Henrico MRC, please visit our website at <http://www.co.henrico.va.us/health/mrc.htm>. More to follow on the drill in coming months....

Prevention Update: Screening for Hemochromatosis – A recent report from the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommended against routine genetic screening for hereditary hemochromatosis in the asymptomatic general population. **Rating: D Recommendation.** See more at: <http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/uspstf/uspshemoch.htm>

Save the date! LATINO HEALTH SUMMIT: Latino Cultures and Beliefs in Health Care - November 16–17, 2006 Richmond, Virginia. See www.cmeregistration.som.vcu.edu to register and for further information.

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